

The

HISTORIAN

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OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Bay St. Louis, Mississippi

September 1997

SEPTEMBER HAPPENINGS

The September luncheon meeting of the Hancock County Historical Society will be held at noon on Thursday, September 18 at the Kate Lobrano House, 108 Cue Street, Bay Saint Louis.

We were dealt cruel and unusual punishment in July when the weather conspired against us, causing our July meeting to be cancelled/postponed. One is seldom given a chance to re-do history but in this instance we shall have the day that we were denied. Chancery Clerk of Court, Tim Kellar, will be the speaker at our meeting.

Mr. Keller will bring from his office a collection of journals on such a wide range of interests as immigration, naturalization, cattle brands, wills, deeds and even the licenses of the county's first doctors. You will be able to ask questions about the availability of these journals and how to properly use them.

Please call 467-4090 for luncheon reservations. We are limited to 60 people so please call early for this very interesting program. Cost is \$6.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks for the wonderful meeting we had in August: great turn-out with standing guests in the rear; a very informative talk by Dr. Marco Giardiano and warm and kind words by Pat Walden and Margot Chaix who donated the Poverty Point artifact collection to the Society.

Robert Scharff, former resident of Bay Saint Louis, presently living in N.C.,
(Continued on page 3)



de Montluzin Drug Store

SKETCH BOOK EXAMINED

Secreted away in the vault of the Historical Society is a rare original copy of a delightful little book, "Issued by The Southern Manufacture, New Orleans, Louisiana," at 514 Camp Street, circa 1908. The copy is on loan to the Society by Ames Kergosien.

The Society had a copy that had been severely damaged in Hurricane Camille. We made a few copies from the damaged copy several years ago for our members. If you have one, it is indeed a collector's item.

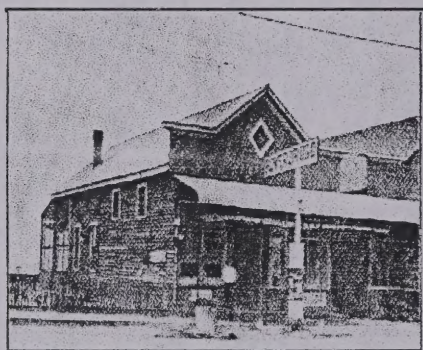
Named *The Sketch Book of Hancock county, Mississippi*, it was "issued as a sketch of the general resources of one of the most promising sections of the South. Lands are cheap and are highly fertile and productive. The bathing is superb and the fishing and hunting unexcelled."

There are many descriptions of people, businesses and homes in the county at that time. Some of the more notable include the deMontluzin Drug Store (above).

The *Sketch Book* describes a number of drugstores and related businesses as follows:

"L.A. de Montluzin Sons is the oldest established and one of the most reliable drug stores of Bay St. Louis. The business was founded over thirty years ago by the late L.A. de Montluzin. This firm have established an enviable reputation for the stock of pure fresh drugs, druggist sundries, toilet articles, stationery that they have on hand at all times. Special attention is devoted to the prescription department. In addition, they have developed an enormous soda water and ice cream trade, which is due to the special pains and effort that they devote to this feature of their business. Their drug store is centrally located and directly opposite the new Pickwick Hotel on the Beach."

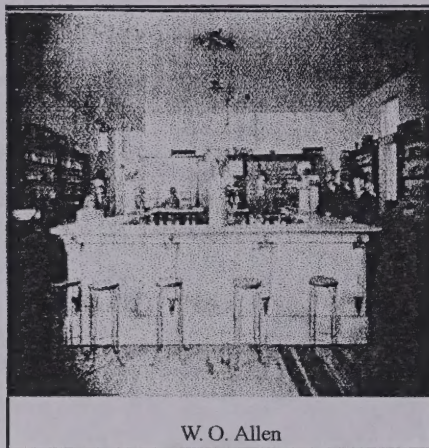
Bay St. Louis was indeed a thriving community, supporting several drug stores and related businesses after the turn of the century.



SNAP SHOT OF POWER DRUG COMPANY PHARMACY.

"POWER DRUG COMPANY, known as the 'REXALL STORE' is the title of one of the popular and successful retail drug stores. This business was established in 1907 on a very small scale, but the trade has been rapidly growing. A full stock of fresh drugs, druggist sundries, stationery, toilet articles, cigars and fine candies, is always carried on hand. This firm is the sole agent for Rexall Remedies, Guth Chocolates and Candies, Eastman Kodaks and supplies, and Groots Cocoa. Mr. R. M. Power, the general manager, was formerly a resident of Marietta, Ga.; he is a graduate of the New Orleans College of Pharmacy.

A successful soda and ice cream trade has also been established. The store is located on Front street [Beach Boulevard] opposite the Hancock County Bank. The day phone is 189, and the night phones are 54 and 31."



W. O. Allen

"W.O. ALLEN is the proprietor of Allen's Drug Store, which has been successfully established two years, although this stand has been a drug store for upwards of thirty years. It was formerly Evans' Old Place. Due to conscientious attention to his business and an effort to please all of his patrons, Mr. Allen has developed a very fine trade; he has on hand a full line of drugs, druggists' sundries, high grade candies, toilet articles, rubber goods, sporting goods; he also enjoys a very fine soda and ice cream trade, making his own syrups of pure fruit juices. Mr. Allen moved to Bay St. Louis from Selma, Ala., where he followed the drug business for a number of years."



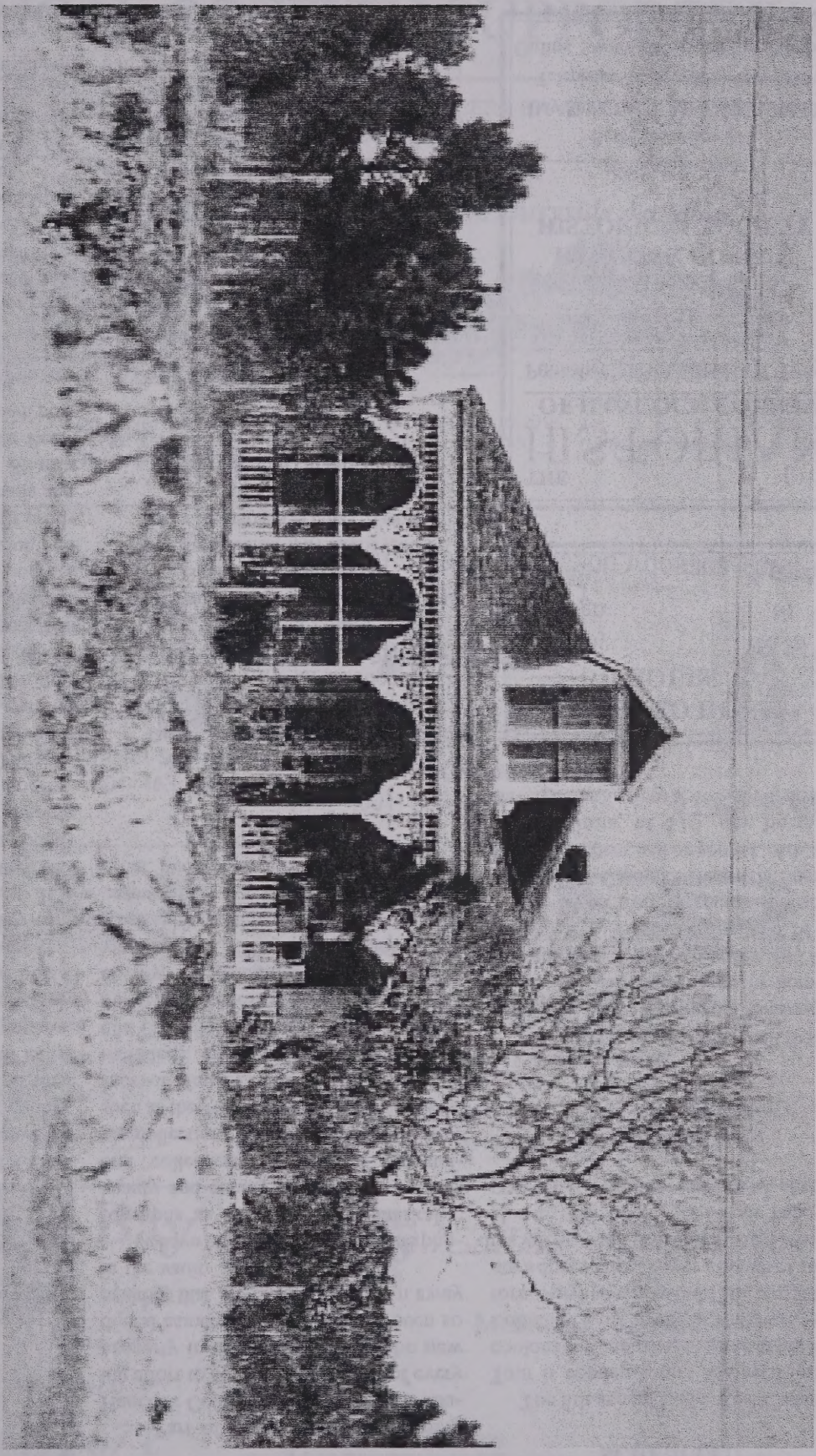
THE DRUG STORE OF E. C. GARDEBLED.

"E.C. GARDEBLED has been a resident of Bay St. Louis ever since 1861, and has been successfully established in the drug business since 1880. He enjoys a very substantial trade, which is due to the large stock of drugs and druggist sundries that he handles in very large quantities; he also has on hand all kinds of toilet articles, and has the reputation of being the first drug firm in this section to handle the celebrated California perfumery; his line of stationery and post cards is complete. Mr. Gardebled also has a very fine soda water business; he is conducting a big piano contest, which has been highly successful; he has always taken a very enthusiastic interest in the upbuilding of Bay St. Louis, having served for two terms as a member of the Board of Supervisors of Hancock County, and as a member of the Board of Aldermen of Bay St. Louis for seven years; his store is situated at the corner of Toulme and Main Streets."

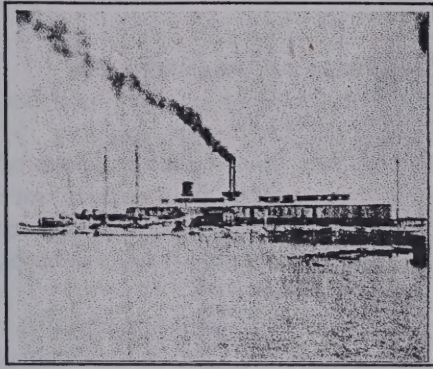
Essential to all the ice cream vendors were these purveyors of ice: "Bay St. Louis Ice, Light & Bottling Works, A.L. Stokoe, Proprietor. Man'fg of Crystal Ice Soda Pop, Seltzer, Ginger Ale, Celery, Etc. Dealers in Steam and Domestic COALS. Lighting Plant - 60 cycle A.C. 100 Volts Secondary, 2000 Primary. Ice Plant - 25 Tons Ice Daily Capacity. Telephone No. 28.

"BAY ST. LOUIS ICE, LIGHT & BOTTLING WORKS is the owner of one of the chief of public utilities, which consists of furnishing street lighting for the City of Bay St. Louis. In this connection, there are 120 street lights distributed throughout the residential and commercial district. The lighting plant is up-to-date in every respect, and is equipped to furnish power for motors, electric fans, electric flat irons and small plants. The ice plant is also modern, equipped with a York Ice Machine of 25 tons daily capacity.

"Mr. A.L. Stokoe is the sole proprietor. Besides an immense local trade, Mr. Stokoe ships his carbonated drinks throughout the interior of the County, and along the L. & N. Railroad. Mr. Stokoe moved to Bay St. Louis from Jeanerette, La., seven years ago."



DO YOU KNOW THIS HOUSE?
IF YOU DO, CALL THE HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OFFICE AT 467-4090



"THE PEERLESS OYSTER COMPANY, LIMITED, are the owners of the only canning factory in Hancock county. Their plant covers five acres, and their equipment, which is complete in every respect, includes camps, fishing smacks, and the power boats, Emma and L. F. Fairchild, which are used as tow boats. The Peerless plant is remarked by visitors for its cleanliness and sanitary condition, even in the busiest of times. It is equipped throughout with the very latest type of machinery. The factory buildings number five. There is the canning factory proper, the shucking rooms, shrimp rooms, the warehouses. The oysters and shrimp are taken from the boat at one end of the plant and carried through one department after the other until the last building is reached, where the products are ready for shipment. The company also own their own electric light plant, and they own and operate their own shipyard, which is equipped with two sets of marine ways. Their products are shipped throughout Canada and the leading markets of the U.S." Shortly after this article was written, the Peerless Oyster Company added its own bottling works and its own ice plant.

President from page 1

has written a well-researched local history from the explorers to the space age. We appreciate his extensive work and would like to help him get it published and available in the local market.

Thanks to Mrs. Dougie Hitt for donating 40 glass 8 inch luncheon plates. Does anyone have 20 more as we always have 60 guests at our monthly luncheon at the Loblano House?

Charles H. Gray, President

NOTE CARDS AVAILABLE

Part of the process of recording Hancock County history is our continuing effort to acquire photographs of every property in the county. With the new digital camera, the results have been so exciting that we cannot shut them away in the vault.

We have reproduced some of the photographs as notecards of remarkable beauty and quality. There will be several "collections" available: The nostalgia collection (buildings no longer here such as the Pirate House and the Andrew Jackson House), homes (your own home included); civic buildings (such as the Old City Hall, the courthouse, the train depot); churches; and scenes from the county. The contemporary ones are in full vibrant color. They are available in attractive boxes of 6 cards for \$10 and may be mixed or matched as you wish. To order, phone our office at 467-4090.

NEW MEMBERS

David Spence, Pass Christian
Deborah Spence, Pass Christian
Mrs. Raymond Bailey, Diamondhead
Dr. Lorraine deMontluzin, Florence
South Carolina
Mrs. Raymond Murphy, Diamondhead
Henry Ward, Gulfport
Mrs. Beth Keith, Bay Saint Louis
Rose Hemstreet, Dallas, Texas
Sharon Crane, Waveland
James Crane, Waveland

A PLACE OF ART VI

A Place of Art will hold its annual Patron's Party at the Depot on Railroad Street on October 3rd from 7 to 10 p.m. Cost will be \$25, tickets available at the gate. Food and drinks are free. Patrons can then bid at the Silent Auction where quite valuable pieces have sold for very reasonable prices in the past.

The Exhibition and Sale on Saturday and Sunday is free. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call Ruth Thompson at 467-8201 or Zita Waller at 466-3320 for additional information.

CEDAR REST CEMETERY TOUR SCHEDULED

The 5th annual Cedar Rest Cemetery Tour is coming soon. We need lots of cookies and cupcakes to serve at the Kate Loblano House to all our Halloween visitors. Anyone who would like to contribute a dozen cupcakes or a bunch of cookies please call Karen at the Loblano House, 467-4090. We will be happy to provide a reminder service if needed.

PASS CHRISTIAN PRESENTS AUTHOR

Dr. Mary Carol Miller will discuss her book, *Lost Mansions of Mississippi*, on Sunday, November 9 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ramsey, 845 East Scenic Drive, Pass Christian at 6:30 pm.

Dr. Miller's appearance is sponsored by the Pass Christian Historical Society. Wine and cheese will be served. Advance reservations, at \$10, can be made through our Society at 467-4090, no later than October 31.

LOBRANO HOUSE HOURS

Monday	8 a.m.
through	to
Friday	4 p.m.

THE HISTORIAN OF HANCOCK COUNTY

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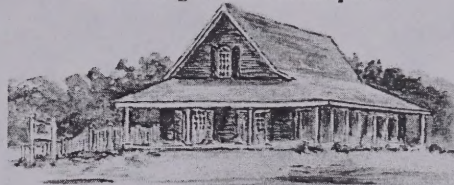
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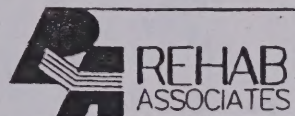
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